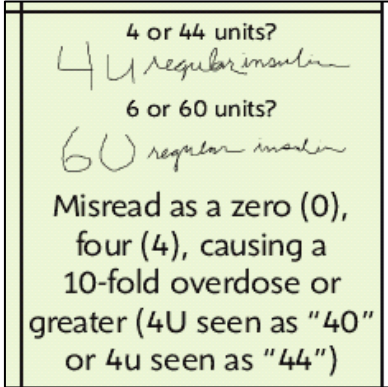


## NIH Clinical Center 2004 Unacceptable Abbreviations

Unsafe abbreviation or dose expression	Misinterpretation	Acceptable alternative
MSO <sub>4</sub> MS MgSO <sub>4</sub>	Confused for one another. Can mean morphine sulfate or magnesium sulfate.	Write "morphine sulfate" or "magnesium sulfate"
µg	Misread as "mg"	Mcg or spell out microgram
qd, q.d., QD or Q.D. (once-a-day)	Misread as "qid" or "qd"	Write "daily"
qod or QOD	Misread as "qid" or "qd"	Write "every other day"
qhs or QHS	Misread as "qh" or every hour	Spell out at bedtime
U or u (for units)	Misread as zero or 4 	Write "unit"
IU (for international units)	Mistaken as IV (intravenous) or 10 (ten)	Write "international unit"
cc	Misread as "u" for units when written	Use "ml"
Use of trailing zero (e.g. Warfarin 1.0 mg)	Decimal not noted; misread as 10 fold overdose	1 mg
No leading zero (e.g. Clonidine .2 mg)	Decimal not noted; misread as 10 fold overdose	200 mcg or 0.2 mg

- The use of abbreviations, symbols, and acronyms is discouraged
- All written orders containing an unacceptable abbreviation must be clarified in writing before the order can be acted upon:

### Examples:

*MSO<sub>4</sub> 2 mg IV prn severe pain. Order clarification: MSO<sub>4</sub> is morphine sulfate.*

*Coumadin 2.0 mg po now and at 6 pm tonight. Dose clarified to be 2 mg.*